Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 SSM-05 IO-14 AID-05 /104 W

------118866 211724Z /43 R 201358Z APR 78 FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0816 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1152

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, IS, JO

SUBJECT: AL QUDS WELCOMES ELECTION OF NAVON AS PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL

- 1. EAST JERUSALEM'S LEADING ARABIC DAILY " AL QUDS" APRIL 20 WARMLY WELCOMES ELECTION OF YITZHAK NAVON AS ISRAEL'S FIFTH PRESIDENT.
- 2. "AL QUDS" CITED NAVON'S SEPHARDIC BACKGROUND, FLUENCY IN ARABIC AND MODERATE VIEWS INCLUDING, ACCORDING TO "AL QUDS," HIS CALL FOR "NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANY PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION WHICH ANNOUNCES ITS READINESS TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL."
- 3. "AL QUDS" CONCLUDES: "WE HOPE NAVON WILL INSTILL HIS PERSONAL TOUCH IN ISRAEL'S PUBLIC LIFE SO AS TO REDUCE THAT ERRONEOUS AND ARROGANT BELIEF THAT ISRAEL IS AN EXTENSION OF THE WEST IN THE HEART OF THE EAST AND AN EXTENSION OF CIVILIZATION IN A DESERT OF BACKWARDNESS. LIKEWISE, WE HOPE THAT HIS TERM WILL BE A PERIOD FOR SOWING SEEDS OF MODERATION AND CO-EXISTENCE BASED ON JUSTICE BETWEEN JEW AND PALESTINIAN AT A TIME WHEN ONLY THISTLES AND HATRED UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE BEING SOWN."

4. COMMENT: "AL QUDS" PRAISE IS UNPRECEDENTED. NOT EVEN SHELLI DOVES HAVE RECEIVED SUCH A VOTE OF CINFIDENCE FROM THE ADMITTEDLY MODERATE ARABIC PAPER. (NEITHER "AL FAJR" NOR "ASH'AB" COMMENTED ON THE ELECTION." "AL QUDS" RAISING OF THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN AND ARAB PRIDE RECALLS

TO US FORMER CONGEN DAY'S REMARKS IN THE NEW YORK TIMES IN MARCH ON THE NEED FOR AN ISRAELI APPEAL TO THE HEARTS OF PALESTINIANS AND ARABS.

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